

Wireless Telephone number portability should be mandated across the industry. The lack of portability has kept me from switching wireless telephone providers.

My wife and I have both had wireless phones for over five years. We initially chose Bell Atlantic Mobile, now called Verizon, because of their reputation for call quality and service even though their prices were slightly higher than the competition.

About two years ago, we were completely fed up with the high prices we were paying for our existing analog service. We spent three months examining the plans offered by the local wireless providers: Sprint, Bell Atlantic Mobile (now Verizon), MCI, AT&T and Comcast (now Cingular).

Sprint clearly had the best plan, Comcast was second and Bell Atlantic Mobile was a distant third. AT&T and MCI simply did not have competitive plans at that time. All three companies agreed to allow us to try their plans for 30-days or more risk free. Sprint and Comcast clearly had better plans, but selecting them necessitated changing wireless telephone numbers. My wife uses her cell-phone for business and has given her cell-phone number out to a lot of people, in addition to having it printed on her business cards and stationary. She reluctantly agreed to switch telephone numbers if it meant better service at lower prices.

We stayed with Bell Atlantic Mobile. Even though we could have tried Sprint and Comcast for 30 days risk free. My wife cast the final ballot when she said "There is now way in hell I'm switching telephone numbers again in 30 days, so whatever plan you pick it better be right!" With that, all competition in the market vanished.

We are again, at a point where we are at the end of our two-year service agreements, and we can look to the competition. This time, Verizon has given us so much trouble over the past few months that we are willing to change telephone numbers. Actually, my wife still refuses to change her number so she is staying with Verizon. I, on the other hand, am willing to give up my telephone number for a chance to get a better wireless telephone plan.

Please mandate wireless telephone number portability. We are being held hostage by our wireless service providers.

Thank you,

Raymond C. Rawa